

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-13 are in the case.

I. ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The election of Group I (claims 1-13) is hereby affirmed. Claims 14-17 have been cancelled without prejudice to the possibility of pursuing that subject matter in a separate divisional application.

II. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTION

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,615,253. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present application is directed to a process for contacting (a) at least one gaseous reactant and (b) at least one liquid selected from reactants, coolants and mixtures thereof in the presence of a fluidised bed of catalyst. The process comprises (i) fluidising with a fluidising gas, a bed of fluidisable catalyst within a fluidisation zone in a reactor, the reactor having a fluidisation zone for the bed of catalyst and support means for supporting the bed of catalyst within the fluidization zone; (ii) introducing the at least one liquid into the reactor through at least one inlet located within the fluidization zone; and (iii) introducing the at least one gaseous reactant into the reactor through at least one inlet located within the fluidization zone adjacent the support means.

In essence, the present invention provides a fluidised bed process wherein a gaseous reactant is introduced through at least one inlet located in the fluidisation zone adjacent a support means. This feature is not disclosed by U.S. Patent 3,615,253.

In the '253 patent, the gaseous monomer is introduced into the reactor (Figure 1, item 20) via a conduit 24 which is below the support plate 25 (see column 4, lines 12-13). Thus, in the '253 patent, the gaseous monomer is not introduced into the fluidisation zone of the reactor and, moreover, it is not introduced "adjacent" the support, as required by the claimed process of the present invention.

In light of the above, it is clear that the '253 patent does not disclose the step methodology of claim 1. For this reason, the '253 patent is not anticipatory of claim 1 or claims 2-13 (the '253 patent likewise does not suggest the presently claimed process). Withdrawal of the outstanding anticipation rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

III. AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended to include customary headings, including a brief description of the drawings. No new matter is entered.

As noted earlier, claims 14-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. The claims currently pending in the application are accordingly directed to the elected invention. A clarifying amendment has made to claim 1. No new matter is entered.

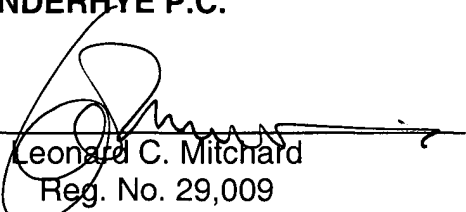
BECKER et al
Appl. No. 09/877,227
December 14, 2004

Favorable action on the present application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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